

Ellesmere Port Area Partnership Board

Venue: TO BE CONFIRMED

Date: 26th May 2011 starting at 9.00 a.m. ending at 11.00 a.m.

LOCALISM THE NEED FOR A NEW GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Workshop Session with Area Partnership Board – facilitated by Alison Armstrong and Carly Brown of Cheshire West and Chester

The purpose of the session is to seek the views of partners to how they can:

Contribute to the discussion the authority wants to have in relation to developing a new governance structure that reflects the ambition to commission services to improve the health and wellbeing of the Ellesmere Port Residents.

1. What are the organisational barriers to being part of a commissioning board?
2. Where does accountability for allocation of resources rest?
3. Roll of elected members in commissioning and shaping services. (Not for real discussion at the APB, but for the council to take forward and seek Members views. It will be an integral part of the new governance framework).
4. How do we ensure the community has a real voice in identifying what are the gaps in services as well as what is working and not working for them
5. What success measures should the Area partnership Board be considering

The Chair of the APB will lead the discussion with members of the partnership board and the out-comes will be used to inform how the governance around localised integrated services should be developed with the wider partnership within Cheshire West and Chester.

Out-come: If possible a designed structure for governance

Second Session: Facilitated by Alison Armstrong

- Clarity on defining what we mean by commissioning
- Links to Neighbourhood Plans
- Adding value
- Where is the accountability for allocation of resources

Background:

Highlights from the Localism Bill which may help members thinking:

Key points of the Localism Bill include:

- a new power for local people to approve or veto excessive council tax rises through a local referendum, but with the intention that the majority of local councils will fall below the level set by the secretary of state;
- a right for local councils – as well as voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and local authority employees delivering a service – to challenge a local authority, by expressing an interest in running any service for which they are responsible;
- the chance for communities to develop a bid and raise the capital to buy a local community asset when it comes on the open market;
- measures to give people, councillors and councils the power to instigate a local referendum on any local issue;
- a new general power of competence to provide local authorities – including certain local councils – to enable them to do anything apart from that which is specifically prohibited;
- freeing up councillors to be able to campaign, to express views on issues and to vote on those matters, without fear of being unjustly accused of having a closed mind on a particular issue;
- the abolition of the Standards Board regime and a new duty on local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, including provision for the adoption of a voluntary code of conduct;
- changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy including provisions requiring some of these funds to be passed to neighbourhoods where the development has taken place;
- a new right for local councils to shape their local areas through neighbourhood plans which will enable communities to permit development – in full or in outline – without the need for planning applications;
- the power for communities to take forward development in their area without the need to apply for planning permission, subject to meeting certain safeguards and securing 50 per cent support of the community through a referendum.